

CONCORDIA

U N I V E R S I T Y M A G A Z I N E

DECEMBER 1991

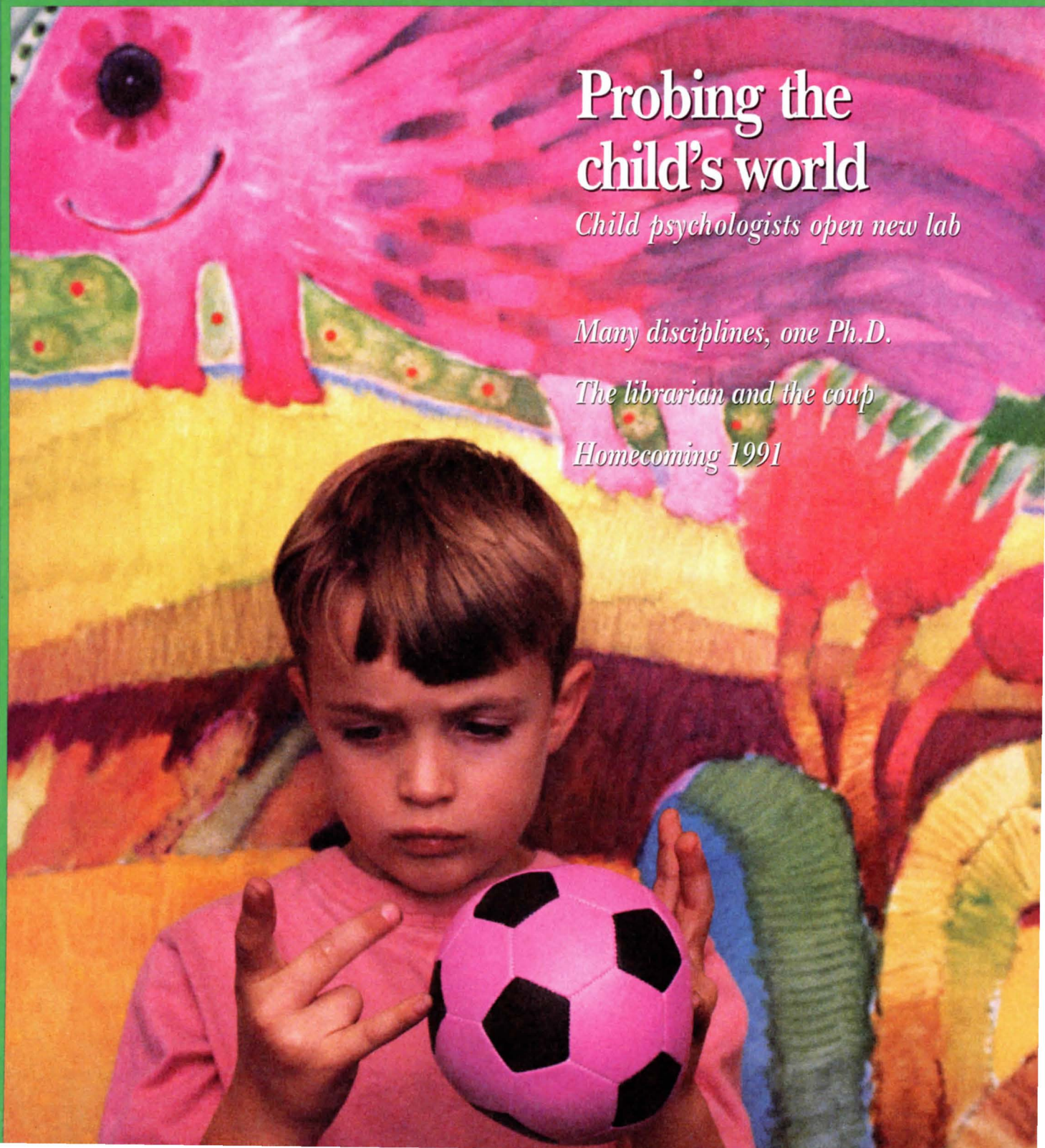
Probing the child's world

Child psychologists open new lab

Many disciplines, one Ph.D.

The librarian and the coup

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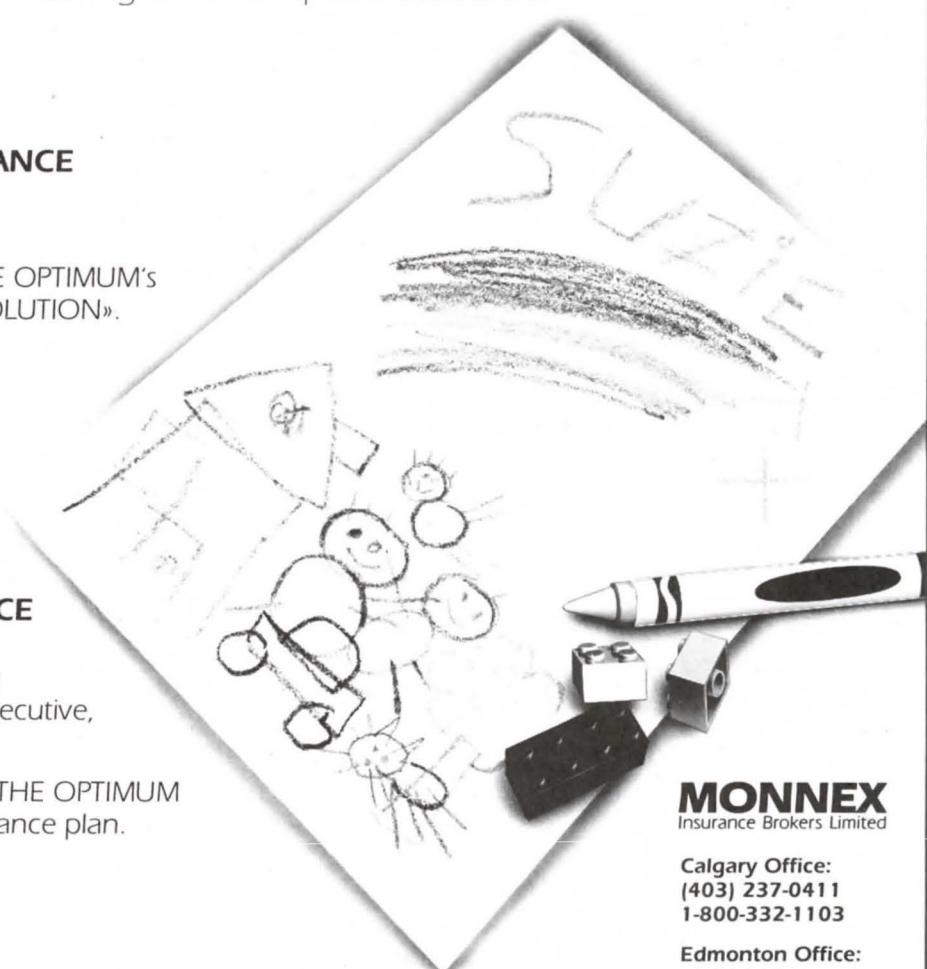
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CONCORDIA

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DECEMBER 1991
VOL. 14 No. 4



COVER: *Contemplating his own inner workings, Edward Wright stands in front of one of beautiful and fantastic paintings by Dorota Dylag which brighten the walls of the Department of Psychology's new Child Development Laboratory.*

PHOTO BY GEORGE ZIMBEL

Mark Olyan,
PhD Humanities
student

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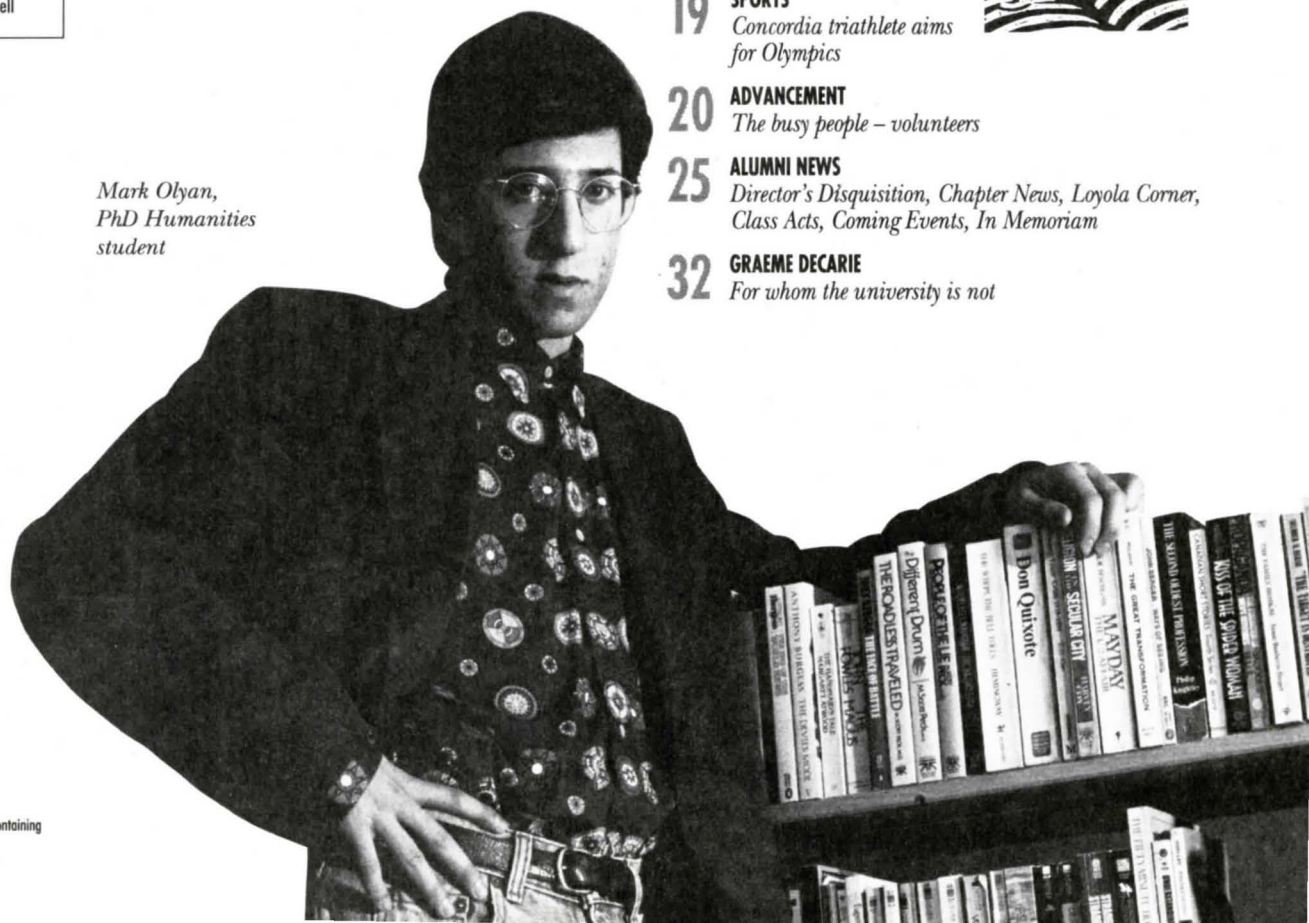
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GRAEME DECARIE

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MY WORD



May I present... a new look and its author

Welcome, gentle readers, to a brave new *Concordia University Magazine*. I am writing this in early November, and in the past few days I have seen the magazine's new look emerge. I have begun to realize just what a difference a skilled designer can make to a publication.

Later, on page 20, you will find an article about a couple of the busy people, volunteers, who help make things happen for the University's alumni and advancement offices. I'd like to tell you about another.

Eric Serre graduated from Concordia in 1984 with a BFA in graphic design. He was one of two designers who worked on *La Presse* when it underwent its redesign in 1986. Eric is now a partner at Studio Bi, a design firm in Old Montreal. In addition to a full professional workload, Eric has all the weighty family commitments a 14-month-old child entails.

It's amazing how busy a busy person can be. Yet Eric has found time to serve on *Concordia University Magazine's* editorial board and, for the past year, has donated hours to the redesign of this publication.

I confess, I hadn't a clue what was involved. Eric would appear from time to time with mock-ups of pages and covers, and speak of "grids" and so forth. We would discuss what we liked and what we didn't, and he'd go back - literally - to the drawing board. But it has been only in the last couple of weeks that I have seen the latest editorial work married to Eric's graphic ideas.

We sit at a long table covered with our paraphernalia. There are pages and pages of type in columns, and Eric's grids, and sheets of the layout in miniature called "thumbnails," and tape and a utility knife, and special rulers, and folders of photos and artwork, and a rainbow array of pens and pencils, and mugs of cooling coffee forgotten in the heat of production. Eric's grids are papers marked to show where columns, headlines and page numbers will fall.

Then, barring the utility knife, it's kind of like being back in kindergarten. I tell Eric a bit about a story, he stares off into space for a moment, grins a little grin, scribbles on the thumbnails, then starts cutting paper into bits. Soon he has taped columns of type onto his grids, positioned photos, decided we need an illustration just there, and has covered the whole tattered mess with graphic-artist runes which will be transformed into fonts, typefaces, sizes and colours. The words put together with such care are being as carefully nestled into a setting to bring out the best in them.

There is still a lot to be done: high-resolution output of the pages, pasting in of camera-ready art and ads, preparation of colour-separations and films, last-minute checks of colour proofs and printer's proofs. I expect the nail-biting isn't over yet, but it's fun, exciting nail-biting and I believe the end result will be worth every ragged cuticle.

And, just for the record: thanks a million, Eric.

Kathleen Hugessen

KATHLEEN M. HUGESSEN, EDITOR

Good teaching deserves to be nurtured

I am pleased to have the opportunity to address our many alumni around the world in this inaugural issue of the newly redesigned *Concordia University Magazine*.

The contributions and participation of many Concordia staff, faculty and alumni are evident in the quality of this redesign.

Concordia University alumni make a strong and valuable contribution to the life of the University. As Concordia's friends and supporters, you are our ambassadors in society, because you know the University and can speak to others about what it really is.

In many ways the promotion of Concordia involves the promotion, in a broader and more noble sense, of higher education and the importance of university education to our society. The people who are going to be our ambassadors, and the people who are going to speak out on behalf of the higher education system, are the people who have been involved in it, as students, faculty, staff and patrons.

For the future, it is critical that we share a common perception of the fundamental issues affecting the University, and that we commit ourselves together to the active pursuit of a shared set of goals. One of the main goals in academic development at Concordia is to enhance the quality of teaching at the University.

If universities are repositories of knowledge, then we must improve the means that we have to share and disseminate it. We constantly emphasize the importance of learning how to learn and of teaching how to learn to both students and faculty; the time has now come to emphasize the importance of learning how to teach and of teaching how to teach, because they are, in fact, the other side of the same coin.

It is not only for our university, or indeed for the higher education sector as a whole, that the quality of instruction is key. Universities help to train teachers for primary and secondary schools, and often provide teachers and training methods for programs in the private sector. It is methods of instruction in the full stream of education in our society that must be addressed.

The Commission of Inquiry on Canadian University Education, sponsored by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, recently released its report. Known popularly as the Smith Commission Report for its author, Dr. Stuart Smith, it

finds that "Canada's universities are fundamentally healthy and serving the country well." However, the Commission did find several areas of concern, among them a tendency to undervalue teaching, particularly at the undergraduate level, and an undue emphasis on research as the benchmark of "scholarship."

At Concordia, we take pride in our tradition of offering quality undergraduate programs and teaching. This is something which we have always done well. But because we do something well does not mean that we should stop trying to do it better.

There are many ways to approach the enhancement of teaching in higher education and Concordia has already begun the process with the development of policies designed to evaluate the quality of teaching, to reward good teachers and to improve teaching skills.

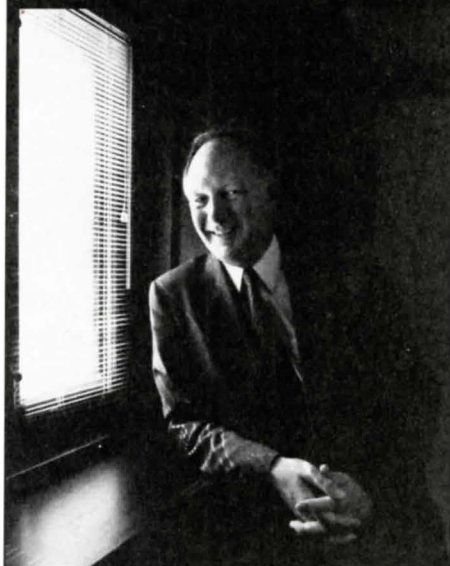
Enhancing Concordia's teaching performance can be undertaken in several ways: by emphasizing the value and importance of good pedagogy in higher education; by assessing current teaching practices at all levels – individual, departmental, Faculty, and institutional; by providing resources to support the enhancement of teaching skills and tools.

Teaching is one of the pillars of an academic community and our aim in the enhancement of teaching is to provide the best possible education for the benefit of all our students and faculty. Despite the excellence and innovation in teaching already present at Concordia, we must continue to try to improve. It is only by continuing to strive for excellence that we can serve our community, both here at Concordia and in society as a whole.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to address you in this issue launching the new format of the magazine. I hope to use this forum again to keep you informed of the directions and priorities the University is taking.

"The time has come to emphasize the importance of learning how to teach and of teaching how to teach."

RECTOR PATRICK KENNIFF



OWEN EGAN

A bibliography is born

Concordia librarian co-authors 9½-pound work

by Janet Coutts

"It's nice that this project was done at Concordia," says Loren Lerner, "because that's what Concordia is famous for."

"This project" is *Art and Architecture in Canada: a bibliography and guide to the literature/Art et Architecture au Canada: bibliographie et guide de la documentation*, a two-volume work and the first bilingual work published by University of Toronto Press.

When Lerner was an art history student at McGill University, Professor Russell Harper asked how anyone could study history if they didn't know what had been written. Later she read government reports that recommended a bibliography be created, and art librarians expressed a need for such a work. In 1981 she and co-author Mary F. Williamson of York University sat down with a group of experts "and we just decided to do it.

"It weighs 9½ pounds, so it's like a baby," Lerner laughs. "It took ten years and nearly \$300,000 in grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada."

The work comprises 9,555 entries and an index, and sells for \$250. Somewhat oddly for a work that concerns itself with art, it has not a single illustration to relieve the monotony of pages and pages of type.

The two authors and their team of researchers and academics – art historians, curators, archivists and librarians – pored through books, articles, exhibition catalogues, government publications and theses published in many countries and several languages from the early 19th

century to 1981. They found a rich lode in popular magazines, nearly the only source of news about art prior to the 1970s when magazines specializing in art began to proliferate. "We found material in *Saturday Night* and *Maclean's*. We went outside Canada to British, American and French magazines," says Lerner.

"From the first I insisted that it be a bilingual product. It's important that researchers have access to what's written in both languages."

Many Concordia students were involved in producing the bibliography. "I saw the importance of getting them involved. For many, it was their first academic work experience and some of them are now working in the field."

Lerner can make going through reams of material

to find an article to list sound like fun. "Russell lived in Alexandria and when we started the project he invited us to look at his collection. He had farm magazines and clippings from all over. And each expert we talked to led us to another expert."

Lerner and Williamson made sure that they covered not just high art, but folk art as well. There were other neglected areas like Indian and Inuit art, which meant looking into what had been published in Denmark. And then there was women's art. "When you look at stained glass, it was mostly done by women artists. And china was painted by women. The women's art associations were the promoters of art, and women art teachers – their men students became famous."

Ethnic artists, who exhibited only at ethnic art societies, were also largely ignored.

Loren Lerner



OWEN EGAN

It took ten years and nearly \$300,000 in grants, contains 9,555 entries and sells for \$250.

If there was anything published about them, Lerner and Williamson are confident they have ferreted it out and listed it.

Lerner is head of the Library Media Centre and is visual arts bibliographer at Concordia where she teaches a graduate course in research methodology. She has a BA, honours fine arts, from McGill, an MA in art history from the University of Michigan and a master's degree in library science (MLS) from McGill. "None of that prepared me for working in Canadian studies," Lerner says.

Nevertheless, she has clearly found something she enjoys doing. No sooner had she finished one project than she started on another, and this one she is doing on her own. It's a bibliography of Canadian film that will cover such topics as censorship, law, and film reviews. The some-



what less than catchy working title is *Canadian Film Literature: a bibliography*. But bibliographies hardly need attention-grabbing titles; they need solid research.

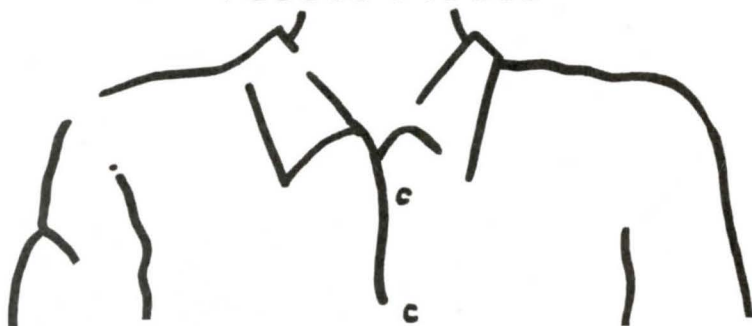
Lerner, who says, "I like a variety of writing styles," has 15 students entering material on computer under Concordia's work/study program. The students come from everywhere in the University.

"I have a student from creative writing, a dancer and a journalism student as well as students from communications and other disciplines," says Lerner.

She's enjoying this new project for a lot of reasons, not least that she likes to see the connection between the library and the Department of Cinema, and the larger connection to the whole world of cinema.

Lerner likes the idea of the invisible college in which one gathers information from colleagues rather than from books. "Believe me, it's there," she says. "Our material for *Art and Architecture* didn't come just from research, but by word of mouth. People tell you wonderful things that start you on your search."

Janet Coultis is a Montreal freelance writer and critic of theatre and music.



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North American Life

LETTERS

French connection

I finally found an opportunity to inform you how I am doing in France. I graduated with my MBA in October 1990 at Concordia and I came back right away to find a good social position in my home country as the economic situation was rather bad in Canada and as I had no working visa to stay in your great country.

After three months of tough research, I found what I wanted at the beginning of February. I have been hired by a U.S. company that manufactures medical equipment to supply hospitals and laboratories. The company's name is Becton and Dickinson. I am working as a financial analyst reporting to the European controller at the European headquarters in Grenoble. My MBA served me a lot to get this job as it was necessary to work with different countries and the U.S. also. I am responsible for the budgeting and the reporting of one of the five European divisions located in Grenoble. This is a very well paid and very interesting position. I am very satisfied and I am very thankful to Concordia.

JEAN-FRANÇOIS REY, MBA 90
GRENOBLE, FRANCE

Remembering when

Over the years I have thoroughly enjoyed reading *Concordia University Magazine* and, of course, its predecessor, the Sir George Williams Alumni monthly publication. They are links with the past, highlighting the progress and careers of alumni and the present-day achievements of faculty, staff and students of Concordia University who are indeed carrying on the great tradition of all those who preceded them.

I consider myself fortunate to have attended Sir George

Williams for I was the first and only member of my immediate family to have the opportunity to attend and graduate from an institution of higher learning. I will always be grateful for the kindness, warmth and wisdom of the late Dean Hall of Sir George Williams, the inspired teaching of Douglass Burns Clarke, Neil Compton, Wynn Francis, Dr. Rachel Wasserman, Prof. Quinn, Roger Angel and all the others who opened windows on the world to me and gave me access to the great minds and hearts of literature, philosophy, political science and other disciplines.

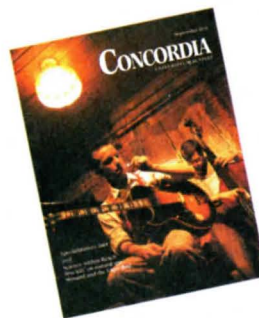
I will never forget the down-to-earth humour of Dean Hall as we sat in a natural science 101 class in the Salvation Army hall. Introducing about 300 students to the genius of Albert Einstein, Prof. Hall confessed: "There are seven people in the world who understand Einstein's theory of relativity – and I'm not one of them." His candour and love of the natural sciences motivated us, I'm sure, to learn more for ourselves about the great thinkers and doers. Perhaps, unintentionally, his good-natured lectures preceded by years my later discovery of a quotation ascribed to Einstein: "Imagination is more important than knowledge." The latter view of a natural philosopher, in the classic sense, demonstrates Einstein's high regard for the creative person, irrespective of discipline.

I also recall rushing from a day's work as a reporter, then an editor, and latterly from the business world of advertising and the pragmatic, grabbing a bite at The Trough (the students' sobriquet for a quick-snack bar in the basement of the central Y building) and then darting off to a class filled with teachers, former Army officers, budding lawyers, importers and secretaries – all capitalizing on the opportunity to discover the wisdom of Socrates,

Plato and Aristotle, the elements of law and the political structure of our country, and the deep insights of famous poets, prose writers and novelists. For me, as I have often said, the evening classes were my mind's recreation or, in today's phraseology, "mental aerobics" which transported me to a *terra incognita* peopled by the spectrum of humanity.

Compared to more affluent and longer established universities, Sir George might have been described as the "concrete campus" but it was quintessentially a once-in-a-lifetime experience of meeting mature, serious-minded – and comical – persons, both teachers and students who made learning a joy.

DON ALBIN, S BA 56
CHOMEDEY, LAVAL, QUÉBEC



A healthy concern

I am in receipt of the September 1991 magazine.

Since the federal government has made cigarette advertising illegal in Canada, I was disappointed to see an academic institution assist the tobacco industry by glamorizing smoking on your magazine cover. This will not help the children featured in your article, "Extending their Reach" nor Mr. Noseworthy himself.

An article on the seriousness of the effect of smoking on one's health would be welcome in a future publication.

RONALD R. RUSH, B COMM 54
MONTREAL, QUÉBEC

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E R R A T A

The gremlins ran amok the last issue and left some rather interesting errors which should be cleared up.

The mission statement published on page 3 was not the final one approved by Senate. It should have read:

"Concordia is an urban university which is responsive to the needs of a diverse student population as well as to the bilingual and multicultural environment in which it resides. It is a welcoming community where values of equality, non-discrimination and tolerance of diversity are appreciated and actively promoted. Furthermore, Concordia is committed to responsible and innovative leadership in fulfilling the mission of universities to develop and disseminate knowledge and values and to act as a social critic. The University seeks to achieve this end by offering its students inclusive and accessible academic programs which stress a broad-

based, interdisciplinary approach to learning, as well as by a dedication to superior teaching supported by the best possible research, scholarship, creative activity and service to society. Through these means, the University prepares its graduates, at all levels, to live as informed and responsibly critical citizens who are committed to learning and to the spirit of enquiry."

Another gremlin was busy at work in the table on page 17 where the abbreviation, 'Eng.' was expanded into 'English' instead of 'Engineering'.

Finally, two lines were dropped from the last paragraph on page 10. The entire quote should read: "We could have given them a better run for the money last year. We'll get first this year."

Concordia University Magazine regrets any inconvenience these errors may have caused.

Golf tournament gracias

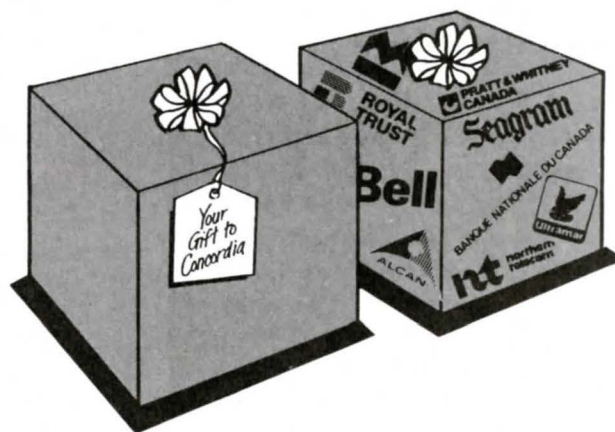
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UNIVERSITY

REAL EDUCATION FOR THE REAL WORLD

When is a dog

What do children do when they play make-believe?

Do kids
play differently
when they're with
a friend?
an acquaintance?
a stranger?



Is gender
apparent to the
very young?
How important
is touching
to infants?

Is a dog still a dog when it doesn't have a tail?

not a dog?

*by Martin Stone
and Kathleen Hugessen*

These are some of the questions being asked by the researchers of Concordia's Child Development Laboratory (CDL) whose new research facility opened November 1. That was the official opening date, but work has been under way in the new space for more than a year.

Prior to the establishment of the new facility, psychology department research involving children took place in the field – schools, daycares, playgrounds – and in University space at 2155 Guy Street or in the Hall Building. The new lab, on the sixth floor of the Guy Street building, was built under the supervision of Dr. Lisa Serbin while she was director of Concordia's Centre for Research in Human Development (CRDH – derived from the Centre's French name) of which the CDL is a part.

CRDH was created in 1981 to encourage and support research into patterns of social, emotional and cognitive (knowing, perceiving) functions across the human lifespan. As a recipient of an FCAR (Fonds pour la formation de chercheurs et l'aide à la recherche) "centre of excellence in research" grant, CRDH receives operating and equipment funds from the provincial government. "The whole place runs on that," Serbin says, "secretaries, paper, technical and administrative support – most of that budget is personnel."

A \$100,000 donation for a child lab from Peter and Edward Bronfman during Concordia's Capital Campaign in the early 80s prompted the University to provide space and funds for construction of the CDL. The Bronfmans wanted their gift used for equipment. State-of-the-art video and audio recording equipment, computers, special furniture and, of course, toys have been purchased with the Bronfman donation.

What with grants for individual research projects, total funding for the work carried out in CDL is in the area of \$500,000.



Six members of CRDH plus several associate members are or will be conducting developmental research in the new facility. Serbin says it is the first area at Concordia constructed specially for psychological research with children. There are several small rooms and a large playroom and equipped with one-way mirrors

UNOBSERVED OBSERVERS: *Members of the Tessier-Doyle research team at work in one of the CDL's new observation rooms. In front are Sylvie de Lorimier, PhD student, and Katia Maliantovich, research coordinator; behind them, research assistants James Larkin and Renée Latulippe, both BA students, monitor video outputs.*

to permit unobtrusive observation of subjects. There are several workrooms and laboratories where recorded data is transcribed and computer-coded. There are individual interview rooms and a comfortable waiting room for parents.

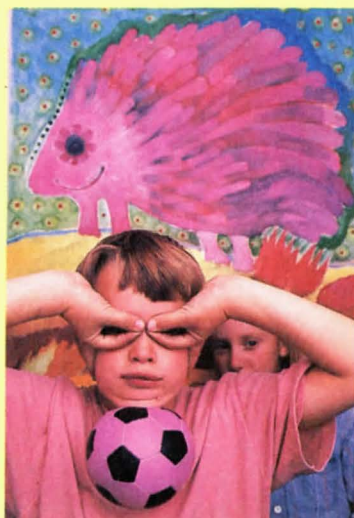
Serbin recalls conducting research before the CDL was available. Work not done in the field was done in converted offices. In examining the videotaped results of one study of infants, an anomaly appeared. "We found that, 30 per cent of the time, the kids were looking to the left, and we couldn't figure out why," Serbin says. It was later discovered that the infants were being distracted by people passing in the corridor. With the new facility, such unwanted environmental influences are a thing of the past.

Helen Raicevic is coordinator of CRDH. She says she remembers being visited by small children when one of the child-study rooms was located across the hall from her office – kids would make a get-away and come over to her space. Or she would be in a meeting with some dignitary and find herself, all but drowned out by an infant's wails, being asked, "Just what *are* they doing with that baby?"

Another deficiency of the earlier labs was the poor quality of recordings offered by the microphones and video cameras. CDL researcher Dr. Anna-Beth Doyle and her students have spent years studying children at play. Her work involves video recordings of research sessions. "We transcribe verbatim what the children say, then categorize their behaviours to get a very accurate, a very precise picture." High-quality observation, recording and transcription capabilities are primary requirements in such work. Doyle says she is delighted with the audio-visual equipment in the new facility. "The new microphones! We can now hear the kids even when they're whispering to each other," she says. "We can even tell *which* kid is whispering."

We can now
hear kids
even when
they're whispering to
each other. We can
even tell *which* kid is
whispering.

— ANNA-BETH DOYLE



Edward Wright and Cliona Taylor

Doyle is working with Dr. Odile Tessier, an associate member of CRDH and a professor of psychology at Université de Sherbrooke, on the play study. The research team is examining relationships between pairs of four-, five- and six-year-olds and focusing on play as it relates to social and cognitive development. They are trying to learn whether playing with a friend, an acquaintance or a stranger alters play patterns and, thus, the child's approach to social relationships. They are also looking at the children's understanding of friendship.

Katia Maliantovitch, research coordinator on the study, says the researchers hope to show that friendship does influence a child's social and play behaviour. This knowledge could provide a means of helping children with emotional problems to overcome them through working with other children.

The new work space is making life much easier for all involved. "Before, we had to worry about where would the parents wait? where could we put the children so they wouldn't feel observed? what if they need to go to the bathroom?" Doyle says. "The new bathroom is cute, right off the playroom, and using it hardly breaks the pattern of play."

The spacious playroom's wall of one-way mirrors permits researchers to study the children unobserved. Parents are invited to watch and, for many, it is a unique opportunity to observe their children at play in the absence of adults.

For the study's observations to be valid, the parameters have to be controlled. By using the same room, the same toys and the same lighting, only the children remain as variables. "The toys have to be laid out in the same way," Doyle says. "Can you imagine if you had to pack it all away between sessions? It would have been impossible to continue running at this level of sophistication in shared space."

And that is one of the things these researchers appreciate most about the CDL – they each have their own space. While certain rooms, such as the observation playroom, are shared and have to be booked and scheduled, data treatment for the various projects can be conducted independently of each other. In addition, each researcher was consulted for special features needed in the design of her or his own work area.

Doyle says the play study "involves endless hours watching and coding videotapes." Every word spoken and any play or non-verbal social interaction by the children is transcribed and coded, a task which can take up to 20 hours for each half-hour session. "There is a multi-purpose shared video coding room, but I can't use that because I'd use it too intensively." No one else would get a turn. So some of the rooms in her

section of the CDL are used for video coding. "If we have very intense needs," she explains, "we try to meet them with dedicated space."

Another researcher using the new facility is Dr. Diane Poulin-Dubois. She started her Concordia research in 1984, in a lab in the Hall Building. Part of her work involved videotaping parent and child interactions. She had one fixed camera aimed at the infant being studied – unfortunately, the parent would sometimes have to move. "The camera was adjusted to give the big picture," she says. "We got lots of shots of parents' feet!" Now she has an observation room with two cameras, or she uses the playroom which has two mobile and two fixed cameras. Parental feet are no longer a feature of the videotapes.

Poulin-Dubois and her graduate and honours students are conducting several studies involving the emergence of language and concepts in infants and toddlers, nine to 24 months old. Among the areas of exploration are the way in which infants form concepts, and the links between language and concept-formation. Poulin-Dubois says the research teams hope to identify general processes in the cognitive development of infants through study of their reactions to words and pictures.

In one study, her subjects are asked to identify photos of familiar objects – a dog, say. "Sometimes," she says, "an important component will be missing, such as the dog's tail." The test establishes at what stage of development children become able to identify a dog as a dog, even without its tail.

Among the features of the CDL which draw Poulin-Dubois' particular approbation are the waiting room for parents, and the sink and counter, built to her specifications, where parents can change diapers.

Because the researchers were involved in planning the facility, they see few if any flaws in the end product. "We were asked to design it," Poulin-Dubois says, "so if there's any complaint, it's we who didn't think of it."

It's appropriate and nice for kids, and it's space that gives us environmental control. It's extraordinary.

— LISA SERBIN

Poulin-Dubois and Serbin are co-directing a project looking at whether very young children recognize the difference between men and women. Photos of female and male faces may appear on the computer screen while a computer-generated feminine or masculine voice is heard over a speaker. Highly detailed video recording of the child's eye movements and reactions allows the research team to ascertain whether the child is able to link face and voice. The quality of the new audio-visual equipment increases the accuracy of findings from such tests. Comfortable work stations allow the students and technical staff, who conduct much of the research, to efficiently computerize the results of each test session.

"It's space where we can set the priorities of what happens," Serbin says. "It's appropriate and nice for kids, and it's space that gives us environmental control. It's extraordinary."

"There are similar labs in other schools – UQAM, Université de Montréal, and some at McGill," she says. "I'm happy with these because they're designed for the kinds of studies we're doing here."

What's unique is the availability of space. Most other facilities are over-used – researchers, if they have access to such labs, have to sign up and wait. Here we have access in a way very few psychology departments can manage."

Other researchers now using the CDL are Dr. Dale Stack, working with infants and the importance of touching; and Dr. William Bukowski, who is studying adolescents. Bukowski doesn't use the observation rooms for his data collection – that is done in the field – but he does use the lab's computers for coding and storing his data.

Space for CRDH has moved around a lot. Originally in the Guy Métro building, the researchers were forced out by a fire in January 1985. They took refuge on the third floor of 2155 Guy Street and eventually moved to facilities on the first and second floors where they still maintain labs and offices. Expanding to the spacious new accommodations on the sixth floor has finally given the child research teams a home of their own.

"The Bronfmans' donation made it possible to create this lab," says CRDH coordinator Raicevic, "and the additional funding has brought us fully on line. ... It has been an exciting time and we're all very pleased to see it now fully utilized and to watch it fly."

"It's a lovely space where we can actually do things," Serbin says. "Very few schools have spent the money and the time for developmental labs like this, integrated well with the department and programs ... I must say, Yale has a very nice one." Concordia seems to be keeping good company. 

Martin Stone is a Montreal freelance writer.

CONCORDIA'S PhD HUMANITIES

W

*Humanities
doctoral student
Mark Olyan
is combining
political science,
film and
literature
to study
totalitarianism.*



Where disciplines meet

IN HIS LATE TEENS, MARK OLYAN WORKED AS A YOUTH COUNSELLOR AT A SUMMER CAMP. IT WAS THROUGH HIS EXPERIENCES THERE, BETWEEN THE BARBECUE AND THE SCIENCE LESSONS, THAT OLYAN FIRST REALIZED WHICH DIRECTION HIS UNIVERSITY FUTURE WOULD TAKE. "THE ATTITUDE AT CAMP WAS THAT YOU HAD TO KNOW A LITTLE BIT ABOUT A LOT OF THINGS," OLYAN SAYS WITH A GRIN. "SINCE THEN, I HAVE DEVELOPED A LOT OF DIFFERENT INTERESTS THAT ARE ALL DIFFICULT TO INCORPORATE TOGETHER, BUT THE PHD PROGRAM COMES AS CLOSE AS YOU POSSIBLY CAN TO DOING THAT."

Olyan, a 25-year-old native of Alberta, is one of 36 students currently enrolled in Concordia University's unique interdisciplinary Humanities doctoral program. By coming to the University, he joins a growing number of students from all over Canada who have chosen the Humanities PhD program, searching for an alternative to the narrow confines of traditional PhD studies.

"I wanted to study in several different areas, but I wasn't going to be able to do this in a very specialized degree," says Olyan, who graduated in 1990 from York University with an MA in political science. "It was the interdisciplinary aspect of the program that attracted me."

As the first of its kind in Canada, the PhD Humanities has received widespread applause from government and from other universities alike. Because it is innovative and unique, the program has become a working guide for the establishment of interdisciplinary programs at York and Memorial Universities, as well as at schools as far away as Tennessee.

Concordia's PhD Humanities began in 1972 as an experiment conceived and initiated by a core group of faculty members from various departments including

By Christopher Pollon



Program Director Joyce Barakett

English, philosophy, and sociology and anthropology. The intention was to establish a doctorate program that could transcend the barriers that had traditionally separated different academic disciplines. Today, the program operates under the auspices of the Faculty of Arts and Science.

Nineteen years after its inception, the program is now under the direction of

Associate Professor of Education Joyce Barakett, who is proud of the success that has made the PhD Humanities Canada's premier interdisciplinary doctoral studies program.

Barakett holds an MA in sociology from McGill and a PhD, also in sociology, from Université de Montréal. She has taught undergraduate sociology courses at Concordia and the sociology component of a multidisciplinary program, Educational Studies, leading to a master's in education. She says that taking on the directorship of the PhD Humanities seemed to be something she fell into naturally. "I had a strong interest in something as innovative as an interdisciplinary PhD."

"There is a definite trend towards interdisciplinary studies in North American universities today," Barakett says. "That is why people are attracted to the program – when they graduate, they are skilled researchers in more than one area."

To keep the standards of the program as high as possible, the Division of Graduate Studies requires an internal evaluation every seven years. This is conducted by the program director and humanities committee members with an external consultant.

THE STUDENTS TURN TO YOU, AND WHEN THEY EXCEL, THAT IS REWARD IN ITSELF

— FRANCESCA SHLOSSER, STUDENT ADVISER

The skills students develop in the program have proven valuable in the job market. Of the 21 people who have graduated from the program to date, 20 are working in jobs related to their fields of study.

Applicants to the PhD Humanities undergo a rigorous screening process to ensure they meet the program's standards. High academic standings in both MA and undergraduate studies are necessary for entry; and the student must demonstrate a serious commitment to interdisciplinary research.

The prospective student submits a research proposal that clearly demonstrates the links between the chosen disciplines. It is judged by a committee consisting of the program director and six faculty members from the Faculty of Arts and Science. Acceptance is based on the proposal, the student's academic standing, a personal interview and the availability of the resources needed by the student to work in their selected fields.

The multi-field approach of the PhD Humanities is very different from the single-discipline focus of most doctoral programs in North America. It is special because it allows the scholar to custom-make her or his own interdisciplinary program with minimal constraints. The student proposes to study in three fields, one major (generally their MA discipline) and two minors. For each field of study, one faculty adviser is appointed to assist in the design of the candidate's course. The advisers set exams and provide tutoring for the evolving thesis.

The freedom to create your own area of study makes the program unique and ensures diversity in its students who cover a wide range of disciplines and interests. Joan Acland has her MA from Concordia in art history. Now in her third year as a PhD Humanities student, she is studying architecture through the fields of communications and anthropology. Mallory Cook took an extra year

of studies after completing her MA in English at University of Toronto. She studied cinema in order to qualify for Concordia's PhD Humanities in which she is examining communications with minors in English and philosophy.

For Mark Olyan, the program is ideally suited to his academic interests in politics, literature and film. Like his fellow PhD Humanities students, he now has the opportunity to explore the links between his particular fields of interest. "I have chosen to look at totalitarianism as reflected in fiction, as opposed to how it's usually studied which is through different theoretical interpretations," Olyan says. "I thought there might be something good in doing it through fiction and cross-comparison using literature and film."

After being accepted into the program, Olyan moved to Montreal late in August. Upon arrival, however, he discovered that getting started in the program was not going to be as simple as he had anticipated. With September rapidly approaching, he found himself unable to find the required number of faculty to complete his student advisory committee.

"I had a really hard time finding a faculty adviser for the film segment of my program," he says. "I found two advisers right off (Prof. Harold Chorney in political science; and Prof. Marjorie Mendell, principal of the School of Community and Public Affairs, for literature), but I ended up racing all over campus for the third – it was a nightmare."

Difficulties often arise for new students because they must find qualified professors with the right area of expertise, a compatible personality and enough time to make a long-term commitment to the program.

"Potential faculty advisers have to decide first if they can work with you – if your personalities jive well together," Olyan

says. "As well, if a certain professor's area of expertise doesn't quite make it with your interest area, then it's just not going to work."

Faculty advisers work on a voluntary basis; they are not paid and, more importantly, they are often too busy with teaching and research to spare the time to supervise a student.

Olyan became so desperate at one point that he considered looking for a cinema adviser at York University in Toronto. Because of the "advisory vacuum" at Concordia, the program allows students to have an adviser external to the University. This year, eleven students have decided, either by choice or by necessity, to look to external faculty for guidance. Olyan decided to keep searching at Concordia.

"The external was like a fall-back position for me – it really seemed like a confused thing to do. I'm based in Montreal now and I didn't want to be constantly phoning long-distance to Toronto."

His patience soon paid off. In mid-September, Olyan found the right man for the job in the person of Associate Professor of Cinema Peter Rist.

Rist agrees there is not always enough advising faculty to go around. "It is often difficult for interdisciplinary program students to get settled into their courses. Personally, I had to turn down one student recently because I was already involved with helping other students outside the department at the time."

With the extremely full work loads of most University professors, the high number of Concordia faculty currently involved in the program is testimony to the strong commitment to the program of Concordia's academics. This year there are 68 faculty members participating in the program; eleven are "externals."



Associate Professor of History Francesca Shlosser says that even with the lack of pay or of recognition from the University the time spent as a student adviser is well worth it. "It's a labour of love and you do it for the love of working," she says. "There is no pay and no acknowledgement from the University whatsoever – but the students turn to you, and when they excel, that is reward in itself."

Rist is quick to echo Shlosser's sentiments. "I'm always interested in a student who has a strong interest in film. Lots of hours go into it, but I really don't count these hours. I don't want to turn down somebody interested in cinema at this level."

The difficulties some students encounter finding faculty reflects the wider issue of university underfunding, says the program's Director Barakett. Having held her post since 1986, Barakett says she has fought a constant battle to get more funds to give faculty the recognition she feels they deserve.

"The program has been underfunded right from the start. There has been a little more support for the program in recent years, but not enough for it to be able to pay those who are doing so much work or have devoted their time to the program in terms of supervising the students."

Barakett says the PhD Humanities doesn't have the financial resources to establish its own department. It is simply

an office of the Faculty of Arts and Science. Faculty members who work with program students are not with a humanities faculty but are "borrowed" from their departments. Because they work outside their departments, Barakett explains, their work is not acknowledged by the

University – it is something they choose to take on voluntarily.

Associate Dean of Graduate Studies Dorothy Markiewicz admits that there is not a university-wide policy for recognizing the work of advising faculty in the PhD Humanities program, that it is up to their own departments. In some cases, such faculty are given a reduced teaching load by their department.

Students like Mark Olyan have been successful in finding available and willing faculty to serve as advisers. But Barakett warns there may be fewer faculty available for future students. "When I look at a list of the faculty members who are involved in the program, names seem to reappear and reappear, and then it's like 'that's enough now – I've done my stint – let's get on with other things'." She says that after a while the lack of recognition combines with heavy work loads to alienate faculty members.

Markiewicz was unable to predict whether the program would receive more funding in the near future. A few years ago, however, the Faculty of Arts and Science made an effort to recognize the financial needs of PhD Humanities students by introducing two \$2,500 teaching assistantship awards for first-year students in the program. Mallory Cook is one of this year's recipients. She will receive her award payment while helping a faculty member conduct research in her specialty field of communications.

A variety of different fellowship awards are available to graduate students to help them make ends meet. Students without bursaries or scholarships rely on part-time jobs and teaching.

Olyan is able to support himself through working as a teaching assistant in the Department of Political Science under one of his faculty advisers.

"I'm lucky to have a TA-ship this year because it gives me a bit of money to get on," he says. "I know students who need the funds but aren't able to get them – they have to study part-time while they work at jobs."

With his TA position, Olyan has the freedom to study at Concordia full time. Thus far in the program, he is relishing the experience of studying at the doctoral level in an interdisciplinary environment. "One of the great strengths of the program for me is that I get to work with people that share the same belief that I do – that some liberal arts are related to one another."

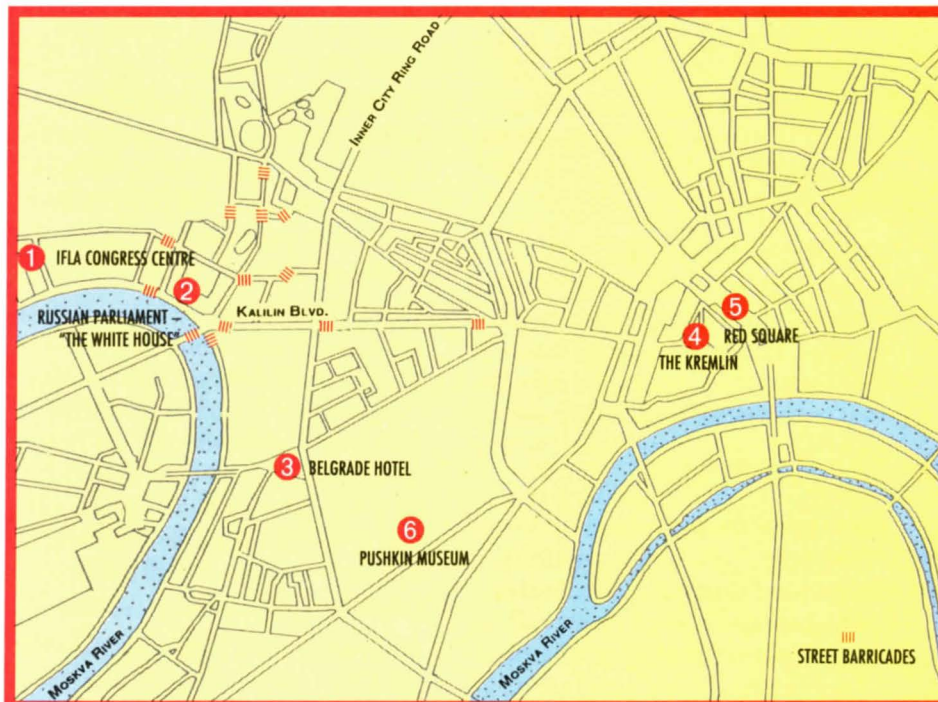
Olyan sees himself graduating about six years from now. He says he would like to go on to teach at the university level – most likely in interdisciplinary studies. Until he graduates, he plans to brave the long hours and solitary life of the PhD student. And, while he admits the program is not perfect, Olyan remains positive about it and about his future. His goal, he says, is "to keep learning and growing."

"What I'm trying to do with my PhD is to incorporate the idea that politics can be seen in other areas besides a textbook," Olyan says. "Interdisciplinary perspective is the key. The best profs I've had in my schooling were the Humanities profs, because they were trained in one area, but were teaching all kinds of stuff – that's what I want to do." ■

Christopher Pollon is a freelance writer and is studying in the 1991-92 Graduate Diploma Program in Journalism at Concordia.

A bad time to visit Moscow

Concordia Librarian Anne Galler
watched the tanks roll in



Tanks rolled into the streets of Moscow in mid-August. An international group of librarians, including Concordia's Anne Galler, watched in alarm. Map of central Moscow showing sites visited by Galler and those of importance during the coup.

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"Feliciter"/Beverly Young

Librarians are information experts. But finding information in Moscow during the days following last August 19 proved too much for Concordia Library Studies Professor Anne Galler (S BA 57). The reference materials simply weren't there – a shock to the system for Galler, who has been a librarian for 33 years.

She had arrived in Moscow for the annual meeting of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) just days before the short-lived coup by the Communist old guard. She suddenly found herself in streets full of tanks, people and

by *Bronwyn Chester*

rumours; empty of solid reassuring information. For two and a half days, she says, "I felt like a prisoner of the unknown."

The story began after breakfast, the morning of August 20. Unaware of the events that had taken place overnight, Galler and some IFLA colleagues went down to their hotel's lobby to book a tour of the Kremlin treasures. While waiting for the kiosk to open, Galler recalls, a Norwegian colleague asked: "Did you know there was a coup last night?" The woman had been in touch with her journalist husband, but there was no one

around yet at the Belgrade Hotel to confirm the story.

The tour of the Kremlin was cancelled, so Galler and her friends set off into the streets of Moscow in search of information. First stop was the Soviet Conference Centre, site of the IFLA conference. But during the group's half-hour walk along the Moscow River to the centre there was no sign of any disturbance. The mystery intensified and the IFLA officials at the centre could do little to clear it.

"There was no information, just rumours," Galler says, back in the comfort and safety of her Loyola office. "Half the people hadn't even heard about the coup." Nevertheless, the officials regis-

tered the names of the Canadian delegates with the Canadian Embassy and the secretary-general of the organization went to the Soviet Minister of Culture for more information. "‘Come to the official opening this afternoon,’ he told us, ‘where the Minister will make an announcement.’"

Galler and fellow coup-investigators walked back to the Belgrade and took the metro two stops to the Russia Hotel for the conference's opening ceremony. "Then, once we got there, we were scolded in French for being late," said Galler. "‘Don't you know there's a coup going on?’ we said to the rather officious Soviet official."

The Minister of Culture addressed the assemblage, but had little to say except that Moscow was "business as usual" and the conference would continue. "I found his presence reassuring," says Galler, "but I still didn't know what to expect next." Would the delegates be detained? she wondered. Would there be violence? Would the airports be open? And what about friends and family at home – what information were they getting?

Aside from a chance encounter with a Nigerian graduate of Concordia's Library Studies program, the opening ceremony that night was neither interesting enough, nor did it provide food enough to keep the attention of the anxious, curious and hungry Galler. She and a colleague returned on foot to the Belgrade. Normally a 20-minute walk across Red Square, by this time – 6 p.m. – things were far from normal.

"All the streets leading to the square were blocked and we were forced to go round and round in the side streets," she says. Tanks had massed in the square but she says it wasn't frightening. "There was a festive atmosphere, with people milling about, talking to the soldiers. We just didn't understand what was going on and no one could communicate with us to

tell us. Some guns were pointed at the Kremlin and some were not. We couldn't tell who was for or against whom."

An hour later, they arrived at the hotel and were served a meal of "lots of champagne and the usual menu" – beef Stroganoff or breaded chicken, potatoes, broccoli, ice cream and "always, caviar."

That night, the atmosphere in the hotel had changed. "There was no one in the hotel lobby except people with security tags," recalls Galler. "I tried to reach the airline to change my ticket, but it was impossible to get through."

At six the next morning (Monday evening in Montreal), Galler finally reached her anxious husband. "‘Come home as soon as possible,’ he told me. I said ‘I can't unless you arrange my ticket.’" He did, and Galler was booked to fly out the following day, a day earlier than she'd planned. Her husband also phoned the spouses of three of his wife's American colleagues to reassure them. "People really helped each other out," she says.

That left Galler one and a half days to watch the coup unfold. And she was still not sure if she would make it to the airport.

That morning a bus was supposed to take the delegates to the convention centre for the first day of presentations, but turning the corner of the Belgrade and arriving at the Moscow River, they discovered traffic was immobilized. During the night, more barricades had gone up. "So we walked. We had to climb over bits of pipe, wood, all sorts of obstacles. Young men helped some of my older colleagues and we gave them cigarettes."

By 5 p.m. the number of barricades had increased. "They were all around the White House (the Russian parliament in which Russian President Boris Yeltsin was holed up)," says Galler. She could see the

back of the building from her hotel – the crowds were gathered on the far side of it.

That night, Galler attended a reception at the Pushkin Fine Arts Museum. This time the bus made it all the way. The route from the Belgrade was barricade-free as it leads away from the Kremlin.



"We just didn't understand what was going on and no one could communicate with us to tell us. Some guns were pointed at the Kremlin and some were not. We couldn't tell who was for or against whom."

Anne Galler

Despite the opportunity to view the famous collection of paintings by European masters, Galler didn't stay long after learning an 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew would come into effect that night. Furthermore, "We'd heard that shooting would start at midnight."

Back at the Belgrade, the staff weren't serving supper because they were too anxious to get home before the curfew. A package of cigarettes, however, secured two bottles of champagne, and Galler and her group managed to sneak a few buns from the serving table.

Almost right on schedule, at 11:58 p.m., the shooting started and a long, sleepless night began for Galler.

"From my window, I could see heavy traffic. It was probably tanks. The shots and voices on the megaphones kept me awake, and I was worried about getting to the airport the next day. There was no news that I could understand coming from anywhere. It was a great relief to see cars in the streets at 5 a.m., it meant that the curfew was over."

The curfew was over and so was Galler's adventure. The airports were open and operating, and at 11 a.m. she caught her bus for the first leg of what turned out to be an uneventful trip home.

Arriving back in Montreal, Galler spent much of the first few weeks answering questions from the awestruck. Several librarians' periodicals asked her to write an account of her adventure. After all, she had been witness to history in the making. But, while this IFLA conference was by far the most exciting of the ten Galler has attended, it was not the most productive. In fact, she says that because of the magnitude of the activities surrounding the conference, the ambience was not as conducive to making international contacts as other conferences had been.

When the conference was held in Kenya in 1984, for instance, Galler got to know a Kenyan school librarian who asked her to send books. At that time Galler was a member of IFLA's committee on school libraries. From that meeting stemmed a "twinning" project between the Quebec Library Association and the Kenyan library. For five years, the QLA held fund-raising events in order to purchase books for its "twin."

Next year's conference is to take place in New Delhi, the capital city of India, another country not renowned for its political stability. Has IFLA reconsidered its choice after the Moscow experience? No, says Galler, who for three years was a board member of the Holland-based organization. In fact, IFLA has already held its annual conference in cities like Manila and Nairobi, and for 1994 the choice is Havana. She says, "The fact that we don't shy away from places that may not be so stable or predictable proves that the image of librarians as timid souls isn't exactly correct!"

Bronwyn Chester holds a 1988 Graduate Diploma in Journalism from Concordia. She is a Montreal freelance writer.

Meanwhile, back in Montreal

Holding the second North American-Soviet workshop on computational aerodynamics without any Soviet scientists was not Professor Wagdi Habashi's ideal scenario. Habashi teaches in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, and was organizer and chair of the conference held in Montreal, Sept. 3 to 5, 1991. That was just two weeks after the Communist old guard in the U.S.S.R. attempted to overthrow the Gorbachev government. As soon as he heard the news, Habashi started trying to reach his Soviet colleagues, worried they would be unable to attend the conference.

"I started at 10 in the morning the day after the coup. I got through at 2:30 a.m. I had my portable phone and I just kept pushing 'redial'."

The scientists in Moscow went to their Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Habashi in Montreal called the Soviet consulate general. Ten days later ("That's super rapid!" Habashi says), he received word – the scientists would arrive next day.

They were seventeen members of the Soviet Academy of Sciences of whom five spoke English. Ten had never before been outside the U.S.S.R. But language difficulties proved insignificant. "They went to a tremendous effort," Habashi says.



BARBARA JAVISON

MONTREAL MEETING: Dr. W.G. Habashi with Oleg Belotserkovsky, director of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences' Institute of Computer-Aided Design.

"They met in Moscow two days before leaving and spent twelve hours a day with the ones who speak English, translating all their overheads and transparencies." The Soviets brought a young scientist to translate all the conference presentations for them. Concordia mathematics Professor Zoheil Khalil attended some of the sessions. Holding a PhD from Moscow, he speaks fluent Russian. He proved invaluable at the closing round-table discussion where he instantaneously translated questions and answers.

While in Montreal, the Soviet scientists began negotiating with provincial officials to establish an international computational fluid dynamics institute in Montreal. Habashi says that, while the Soviets have some brilliant scientists, they are hampered by inadequate equipment, particularly computers. An international centre could help by providing them access to computers.

The conference drew experts from Japan, Germany, the United States and Canada. Those from outside the U.S.S.R. were able to learn about the level of science in that country. "We know where they're coming from now," Habashi says. "They have top-notch mathematicians who can come up with solutions but without computers they can't apply them."

The U.S.A. has no formal scientific exchange agreement with the Soviet Union. There were representatives from the U.S. corporate and university communities, but no scientist working for the government was allowed to attend the conference. Certain goods are prohibited from being sold to the U.S.S.R. through a U.S. trade agreement binding on its trading partners. Computers are on that list.

"The Soviet scientists feel the U.S. wants to treat them scientifically the same way as economically," Habashi says, "to bring them to their knees before helping. They don't expect any technical help soon." An international centre in Montreal would provide Soviet scientists with the computers they need, and members from other countries (Canada, U.S., Japan, Germany and India have been mentioned so far) with access to the work of the Soviets.

Habashi says, though no earth-shaking scientific pronouncements came out of it, "it was a very useful conference ... as a first contact, you can't expect miracles."

Training has become a way of life

Concordia triathlete swims, bikes and runs for hours each day

It's 5:45 in the morning and, while most of the West Island is trying to wake up, Sylvia Corbett is already on the road. But unlike most commuters, she isn't tuned in to the radio traffic reports. She's oblivious to traffic jams.

Corbett, a fourth-year exercise science major at Concordia, is either running or cycling to the Loyola campus as part of her morning workout.

The 21-year-old cycles an average of 60 to 80 kilometers in the morning. At the end of the day she winds up with interval running and an hour and a half of swimming. In between she is your typical Concordia student worrying about deadlines for term papers and upcoming exams.

Such is the life of a professional triathlete (a person who competes in three categories – running, cycling, swimming – combined in one event). Corbett has also entered duathlons in which the competitor runs, cycles and runs again.

Corbett became a professional this past summer when she agreed to run under the Paul's Cycle and Sport banner in exchange for training equipment. She hopes improved performances and publicity will help enhance her sponsorship package. By joining Paul's Cycle and Sports, Corbett made a major commitment to her development as a triathlete.

The decision to totally dedicate herself to the rigours of the triathlon was not an easy one. It meant giving up another love, basketball, a sport in which she has enjoyed considerable success. She was a member of the John Abbott College 1986 National Championship Team, and has spent three years on the Concordia Stinger varsity team.

"I really enjoy basketball and it looked like we were about to turn things around

by Mike Hickey



this year at Concordia," Corbett recalls. "For a while I thought I could do both, but if I was serious about attaining my goals (a spot on the 1996 Olympic triathlon team) I had to give up basketball. I couldn't do justice to either one doing it part-time."

While the mental approaches to individual and to team sports differ greatly, Corbett has handled the switch easily. "I enjoyed the camaraderie that basketball provided me. In a team sport, if things aren't going well, you have the coach or other players to pick you up or motivate you. Now I have to do it myself. It's up to me to make sure the job gets done."

Although Corbett occasionally wanders into the Concordia gym to check up on her former teammates, she realizes that playing basketball competitively is now a thing of the past. "I want to be one of the best in triathlons and duathlons, one of the best in Canada and, hopefully, the world," Corbett explains. "To do that I had to give up some things that I enjoyed doing, like basketball. When you want to excel at something, sacrifices have to be made. In the long run it will be worth it. I think it's the right decision."

So far it certainly seems to be. Corbett finished third in the Canadian Duathlon Championships this past summer. Her next major duathlon was the Desert Princess World Duathlon Championship held November 30 in Palm Springs, California. The by-invitation-only event features some of the world's top athletes.

While training for the Desert Princess, Corbett will run for the newly formed Concordia cross-country team. Competing in the 4-km and 8-km events, she demonstrated in early meets that she will be a force to be reckoned with.

At the McGill Invitational Meet, however, Corbett jumped to an early lead, only to take a wrong turn at the half-way mark. Despite a strong performance, she was disqualified from the meet.

If Wrong-way Corbett can avoid similar mistakes in the coming weeks, she should be heading to bigger and better things in the world of professional tri- and duathlons. If not, it won't be for lack of training.

When you want the job done...

by Kathleen Hugessen

Prevailing (and ancient) wisdom has it that if you want a job done, you give it to someone busy. This apparent contradiction is proven true daily by people like Laurie Brodrick and Sally Aitken.

Laurie Brodrick (L BA 74) is almost impossible to reach in the morning – she's just too busy. It's not much easier to get through to her in the afternoon. Brodrick is a trader in the treasury division of Royal Bank of Canada. She serves corporate clients in foreign exchange and money markets. Before she took on the job in early August, she'd been a senior account manager.

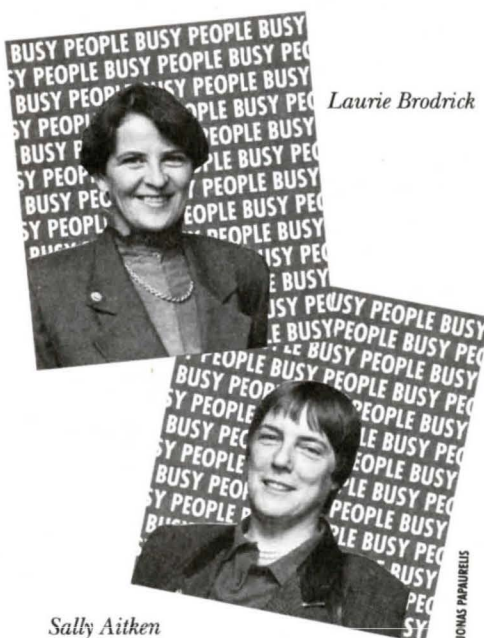
In addition to her professional responsibilities, Brodrick finds time to serve on Concordia's Board of Governors. And when the alumni or advancement offices at Concordia need a job done, Brodrick is one of those who responds immediately, efficiently and with every sign of being pleased to have been asked. For the second year running, she has undertaken to chair the alumni division of the Annual Giving Campaign.

"I've always felt I still owe quite a debt to Concordia," she says ... the phone call suffers a few interruptions, a few minutes on hold, but Brodrick is almost miraculously able to pick up the thread where it was dropped ... "Concordia is one of my favorite organizations to volunteer for."

It is certainly not the only one. "I have opinions and people tend to be drawn to opinionated people. I typically get elected treasurer of something – I'm a born organizer ... or sucker!"

Of last year's Annual Giving Campaign she says, "I was sort of disappointed I didn't have more time to speak to more people – get more blood out of the stone – it's hard during recessionary times. And it's very tough to ask for money."

She says people tend to leave their university and never give it another thought. She tells such Concordia alumni, "We graduated from Concordia, it's up to us to make it a better school by giving money for scholarships and equipment."



Laurie Brodrick

Sally Aitken

Within the alumni division of Annual Giving are the phonathon, chaired again this year by Ron Laughlin (BComm 75), and the alumni personal canvass which Brodrick is co-chairing with a new addition to Concordia's "busy people," Sally Aitken (S BA 64).

"I'm very impressed with Sally," Brodrick says. "She's tremendous and very very bright. I know we're way ahead of the game having her on board."

The admiration seems to be mutual. "I really admire her dynamic and positive approach to Concordia and fundraising

and getting people together," Aitken says of Brodrick.

Aitken has been easier to reach than Brodrick, but not because she is less busy. She just finished her second four-year term as a city councillor for Westmount, a job which required that she be reasonably available to her constituents. As a municipal politician, she has been active in pressing for improvements in the areas of the environment, family programs, and access for the handicapped. And, like so many other busy people, Aitken is an inveterate volunteer.

"I think we're all interdependent – the community and the people in the community. One has to give as much as one gets."

Her volunteer spirit she credits to a teacher she had when she was nine years old. As a small child, Aitken had polio which left her disabled. This teacher looked at Aitken and said, "You have difficulties and a lot of people have helped you. Remember that."

Aitken says, "I didn't know what to do! So I bought lollipops for the whole school at Christmas!" And thus began a career of giving back, some of which is now dedicated to her alma mater.

"I owe my university education to Sir George Williams. It was a college that was physically accessible – I could get a degree and I could get around. It would have been too difficult and too expensive to go to an alternative."

"Concordia University is worth giving time to," she says. "Its mission – making education accessible to all – is something I believe in."

The 1991-92 objective for the alumni division of annual giving is \$289,000, eleven per cent more than was collected last year.

HOME COMING '91

They came from far and near.
They came from the north
(Kujuvaaq) and the south
(Pennsylvania, Virginia,
Florida and the Dominican
Republic).

They came from the east
(Cape Breton Island and
England) and the west
(Toronto and Calgary)
A flood of alumni came to
celebrate Concordia's
2nd Annual Homecoming.



**Reunion year members raise glasses to schools
and memories ► Magical magician Ishkabibble**

2



enchants brunching kids

► Dining and dancing are

never more gala than during Concordia's night

at the Ritz ► Stingers trounce McGill Redmen



28-16 in Homecoming Shrine Bowl II

**► Reel art in festival of works by cinema
and communication studies students**

4



► Spectrum of musi-

cal styles at Homecoming opening

night concert ► Rector

Kenniff pitches his party

tent ► And there was more, much much more

► Hope to see you at Homecoming III in 1992!





6



7



9



10



1 John Allen (S BSc) was president of the Garnet Key in 1961 and Flo Yaffe (S BA) chaired the graduation celebrations that year. They were reunited at the Chancellor's Dinner.

2 Brigid Shea learns about bugs, beetles and butterflies from BSc student Doug Simms during the Homecoming Science Fair.

3 At the student film festival: Professor Brian Lewis, chair of Communication

4 Two Loyola Class of '66 alumni, Jim Guy, left, and Bob Townsend are seen on either side of their former political science professor Henry Habib. They chatted before Saturday's poli. sci. panel discussion chaired by Prof. Habib.

5 Peter Shea, chair of Homecoming 1991.

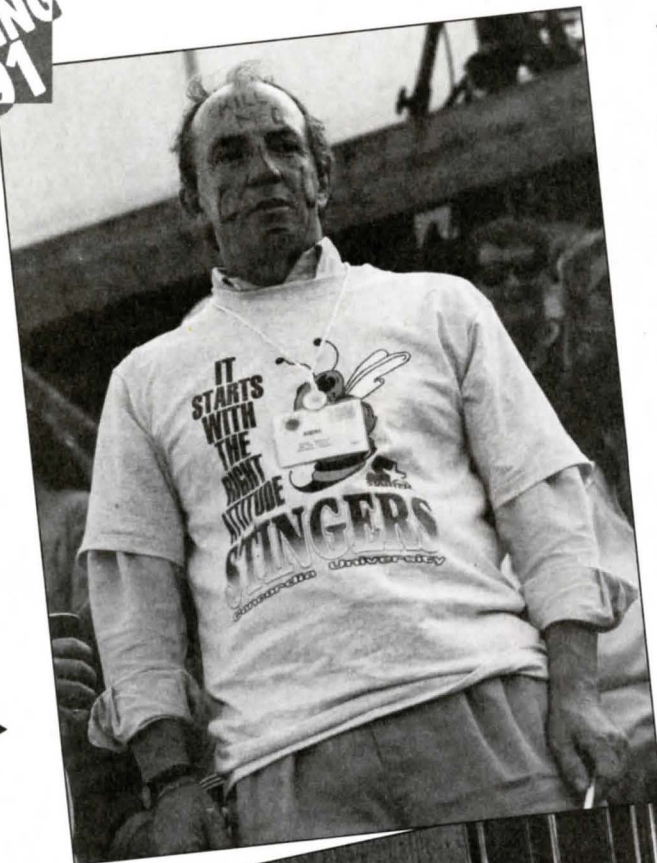
6 The Shriners' Pipe Band marched brunchers to the Homecoming Shrine Bowl game.

7 Louise Archer, (S BComm 66), said grace at the Rector's Dinner.

8 The students turned out in force to cheer the Stingers on to their 28-16 win over the hometown rival McGill Redmen.

9 Carolina Perrotta tripped the light fantastic with André Gervais, chair of Concordia's Board of Governors, during the Gala Dinner/Dance. Behind the swinging pair are Emilio Perrotta (L BSc 66) and Manon Vennat, also a member of the Board. The Perrottas came from the Dominican Republic for Homecoming.

10 The Rector can't quite figure out Ishkabibble's brunchtime magic.



- 1 It was written all over his face. Board of Governors Chair André Gervais wanted the Stingers to win. So they did.
- 2 Mark Murphy (L BSc 61) and Francine Murphy came from Florida for Homecoming. They chatted with Rector Patrick Kenniff at the Rector's Reception following the Stingers' victory in the Homecoming Shrine Bowl.
- 3 The Class of '66 at the Gala Dinner/Dance: from left, Harvey Kalnitsky, Brian Neysmith, Aniko Gaal Schott, David McInnich, Emilio Perrotta and Mike Carten.
- 4 Raymond "Mac" Pendleton (S BA 51) flanked by jazz musicians, bassist André Asselin (BFA music 93), left, and tenor saxophonist Russell Martin (BFA music 93), at the reception following Homecoming's opening night concert.

Fall brings parties, projects and plans

by Ann Vroom

The fall season got off to a running start with CUAA President Pierre Frégeau and the Director of Alumni Affairs going to the Toronto Chapter AGM September 12. The CUAA and Loyola Alumni Association AGMs were held in the following weeks.

Concordia's Second Annual Homecoming took place October 3-5, to the delight of all who attended. This congenial weekend is now firmly established as a tradition at Concordia. This year's festivities were extended by one day and included all of last year's favourites plus three new events – an opening concert and reception, a science exhibition and a screening of award-winning student films. Attendance was up over last year, topping 1,500 not including 4,000 at the Homecoming/Shrine Bowl football game.



MEETING AFTER THE MEETING: A reception followed the CUAA's annual general meeting in September. Among those to attend were, from left, Mollie Nadler (BA 75), John Economides (S BComm 41), Joseph Zweig (S BA 44) and Dr. Rita Shane (S BA 37).

In addition to the many alumni who "came home" from the Montreal area, we were pleased to welcome many long-distance graduates including **Emilio Perrotta**, L BA 66, and his wife **Carolina**, from the Dominican Republic; **Raymond Pendleton**,

S BA 51, and **Nick Chapin**, BEng 81, from London, England; **Doris Ryall**, S BA 59, from Pennsylvania; **Aniko Gaal Schott**, SBSC 66, and her husband Nash, from Virginia; **Mark Murphy**, L BSc 61, and his wife **Francine** from Florida; **Mike Carten**, L BA 66, from Calgary, **Jim Guy**, L BA 66, from Cape Breton, and **Watson Fournier**, BEng 81, from Kuujuaq.

A great round of thanks go to Homecoming Chair **Peter Shea**, L BA 69, and his dedicated committee of **Laurie Brodrick**, L BA 74, **John Economides**, S BComm 41, **Stephen Huza**, S BA 73, **Nancy McHarg**, BA 87, **Bob Philip**, S BA 70, **Pete Regimbald**, L BA 73, **Bonnie Szaniszló**, BSc 80, and **Lorne Woods**, BA 86 for putting on such a great show.

As part of our benefits program, the association offers home and auto insurance through J. Meloche Inc., and a Concordia/Bank of Montreal

Mastercard. In an effort to better promote these services to our graduates, these companies will be carrying out selected telemarketing programs in the coming months – the Bank of Montreal in the Toronto area and Meloche in Montreal. We invite you to take advantage of their offers when they call.

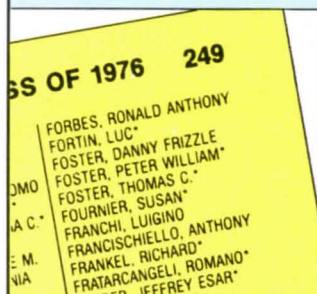
Now in its third year of existence, the Concordia/Bank of Montreal MasterCard continues to thrive. We currently have 4,162 cardholders of whom 2,544 are students. In the hopes of attracting more graduates, we will launch a Concordia Gold Card in the coming months. Carrying the Concordia MasterCard is an easy – and painless – way to support your alma mater financially and to spread its good name.

In closing I would like to extend congratulations and a hearty round of thanks to editor Kathleen Hugessen and her editorial board, in particular Eric Serre, BFA 84, for their superb efforts in creating this new-look *Concordia University Magazine*. A great deal of effort and thought have been expended over the last year in planning and designing this new format. There were many criteria to be considered: the magazine must properly reflect the mission of Concordia, faithfully represent the academic standards and intellectual vigour of the university, be sensitive and responsive to environmental concerns and – most importantly with a magazine vying for attention in a crowded market – be pleasing to the eye and eminently readable. No small order to be sure. I believe the editorial crew have succeeded with panache. I hope you agree.

Concordia's first alumni directory has been published this fall, and the more than 5,000 graduates who ordered a copy should have received it by now. For those who did not order a directory but would still like to do so, copies are available to graduates from the Harris Publishing Company by calling 1-800-877-6554. We are proud of this initiative. We feel it is an excellent

first step in getting our records up to date and a valuable tool for alumni to stay in touch with each other. There are a number of errors and omissions in the directory, for which we apologize. Some of these were due to our inability to corroborate information, others because graduates specifically requested to be excluded, and some of our graduates are unfortunately

"lost" from our records. We would encourage anyone who was unintentionally left out or has information on missing classmates to contact our office so we can bring our records up to date.



Toronto chapter

Considering that the chapter's 1991 annual general meeting was held on the first night of Toronto's public transit strike, it was a great success.

Though the turnout was light, the attendees enjoyed a congenial evening. Guests from Montreal – Alumni Affairs Director Ann Vroom and CUAAP President Pierre Fréreau – brought us up to date on developments in Montreal and Quebec. And they had an opportunity to get to know some of the Toronto-based alumni. Guest speaker Katherine Partridge (MA 77) struck a responsive chord with the group as she discussed how the body reacts to stress, and ways to decrease the negative side effects.

Forthcoming Toronto Chapter events include:

The Chinese New Year Banquet. The date and time have yet to be confirmed. For information, call Daniel Chan at (416) 275-9983 or Dolly Yip at 298-9798, both after 6 p.m.

Sugaring off at the Kortright Centre, Sunday, March 8 at 11 a.m. Take highway 400 to Major Mackenzie Drive, go west three kilometers to Pine Valley Drive then go south one kilometer. For more information, call John Monroe evenings at (416) 947-9997.

John is also the person to call for information about the Chapter's Curling Fun Day. It will be held at Royal Canadian Curling Club, Broadview and Queen Street, from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 29.

A spring business card exchange will take place sometime in April and the spring theatre trip to Eastside Players will be held about Victoria Day in May. Further details will be published in the March issue of this magazine.

JOHN MONROE, PRESIDENT

HAVING A PICNIC: *The Ottawa chapter had a good turnout of alumni and their families for its picnic in August. Among those to take the country air were Anna Lorraine Lambert, 4, and Karl Lambert, 8, children of George Lambert (BFA 82) and Deborah Noel Lambert (BA 80).*



Scowen addresses Loyola Club

It was an evening to remember. The newly formed Loyola Club held its first dinner meeting in the understated opulence of the Montreal St. James's Club. More than 70 members of the new organization attended for cocktails, dinner and to hear a speech by the Club's special guest, Reed Scowen.

More often than not, dinner speakers make their remarks after the meal when the audience has relaxed and conver-

sation is flowing. The Loyola Club wisely ran the speaker before the meal thus providing conversation material for the diners.

Though his subject, the Canadian constitutional debate, came as no surprise to his audience, Scowen's talk was interesting and thought-provoking. No matter which side of the question his listeners were on, he gave them with plenty to discuss over the delicious roast beef dinner that followed.

The evening was an unqualified success and a fitting launch for the proud new Loyola Club. Its next dinner meeting is to be held in March or April. As soon as the date and time are fixed, alumni will be notified. It will surely be an event not to be missed.

For those wishing to become members of the Loyola Club, information is available from Gabrielle Murphy at (514) 848-3823.

Best wishes for a happy holiday season from the Loyola corner.

GEORGES PAULEZ, TREASURER



MEMBERS & GUESTS: *Among those to attend the inaugural event of the Loyola Club were organizing chair Margaret Cuddihy (LBA 68), Loyola Alumni Association President Alex Carpini (LBA 74), Chair of Concordia's Board of Governors André Gervais (LBA 74) and guest speaker Reed Scowen.*

Graduates who received more than one degree from Concordia, Sir George and/or Loyola, are listed under their first year of graduation.

51 H. Murray Heselton, SBComm, is vice-president of Gendis Inc., a retail, real estate and electronics firm in Pointe Claire. He is married and has four children of whom two are Concordia alumni.

55 Gloria Grace Gadoury, BA (English; MA 91, English), teaches undergraduate English part-time at Concordia. She is married and has two daughters and three grandchildren.

56 Dan T. Sullivan, L BA, is an assistant vice-president and senior account executive with Montreal Trust Company in Montreal. He was elected a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and was designated Professional Administrator (P.AdM.), a unique Canadian qualification granted by the professional standards board of the Canadian branch of the institute. Dan is married and has two grown children.

64 William Clough, S BSc, is founder and president of MicroSlate, a Brossard company which manufactures computers operated through touch-sensitive screens. Since its beginnings in 1989 with three employees, MicroSlate has grown to 26 employees and is launching a new product on the U.S. market.

66 Harvey S. Kalnitsky, S BA, is practising law in Montreal with fellow grad **Terence J. McQuillan** (L BA 70).

69 Donald H. Bunker, BA (economics), is a partner and head of the aerospace group in the law firm of Ogilvy Renault. Donald studied law at McGill where he was recently appointed



JUDGE ON THE RUN: John (Jack) Major (L BComm 53) is a regular on Calgary's jogging paths. In August, after a 34-year career as a lawyer, Major was appointed a justice of the Alberta Court of Appeal.

a professor of law in the Institute of Air and Space Law. He lives in Lachute, is married and has four children.

Sonya Browman Strikowski, BA (sociology), is studying radiation therapy technology at Broward Community College in Florida. Sonya is married to **Jake Strikowski** (BEng, mechanical, 69) and they are parents of three boys. She works as a self-employed print model and commercial actor. Jake oversees the operation and installation of radiation therapy treatment centres nationwide for the firm of Cancer Treatment Holdings Inc.

72 Beverley (Brock) Kouri, SBA, graduated in June from the University of Western Ontario with a master's degree in library and information science. She was awarded the Ontario Library Association Award for 1990-91. Beverley is married to Nick Kouri (SBComm 67) and the couple has a teenage son.

Ingo G. Nessel, BA 72, is working in Etobicoke as a special accounts representative with

Schenker of Canada, an international freight forwarding, customs and trucking company. Some of Ingo's leisure time is spent as a member of the Toronto Philharmonic Orchestra Choir.

73 Bob Beriault, L BComm, has spent the past ten years in the U.S. where his principal operating company, Lincoln Trust, became the first independent trust company approved by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Bob and Deborah (L BA 74) live with their two sons in Littleton, Colorado.

Antonia Zerbisias, S BA 73 (MBA 85), has returned to Montreal after several years working for the *Toronto Star* in Toronto. She is now Montreal correspondent for that newspaper.

74 Joël-Paul Brossard, L BA (history; Gr.Dip. instructional technology 87), is a program developer and instructor in the nuclear services division of Commonwealth Edison Co., Wilmington, Illinois. He is married and has a daughter.

COMING EVENTS

A comprehensive Events brochure, including locations, prices and registration information, is mailed to all alumni residing in Quebec. For further information, please call Events Coordinator Gabrielle Korn at (514) 848-3817.



JANUARY

Registration begins.

Tennis anyone? Stay in touch with fellow grads by joining this two-hours-a-week supervised program at a Montreal indoor facility. Squash, racquetball and badminton are also available. Information: Profusion Sports (ask for Waguih), 956-9160.

Wednesday 29

Time Management with Evelyn Zohar of HealthQuest.



FEBRUARY

Monday 17

Holistic Health through Polarity Therapy with Krysia Gallien of Circumference Holistic Centre.



MARCH

Monday 2

Art and Humanism in the Renaissance with Warren Sanderson.

Monday 16

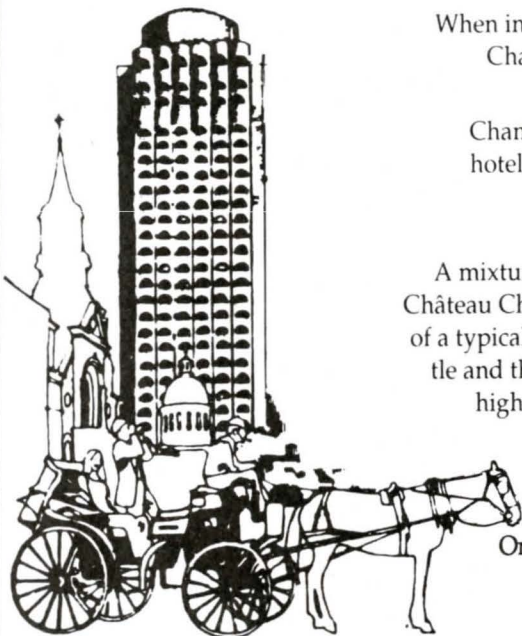
Humour with Lanie Melamed.

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of the

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Le Château Champlain

John Muise, BSc (biology), is laboratory supervisor for the Region of Durham water pollution control plant in Ontario. He is married with two sons. John works part time for 1390 CHOO, a country-music radio station in Ajax.

Gordon Tompkins, BComm, is vice-president, business management, grocery products division, with Best Foods Canada Inc. in Etobicoke, Ontario. Gordon is married and has three children.

75 Larry Mogelonsky, BEng, has become president of Langmuir Mangialardo Advertising (LMA) Inc., a full-service advertising agency which handles a number of Ontario Government as well as private sector accounts. Larry lives in Toronto.

77 J. Andrew Dyson, BA, is senior sales agent in Calgary for Bowman Products which makes industrial-technical consumables.

Brenda Henry, BA cum laude, is a teacher with the Lakeshore School Board. She writes that she teaches, moonlights as a standup comic, has her own business as a motivational speaker, and attends McGill part-time.

78 Pierre C. Belanger, BA (communication studies), continued his studies at Simon Fraser University and at Université de Montréal. In July he was appointed assistant professor of communications at the University of Ottawa. Pierre is married and has a daughter.

John Santillo, BComm, manages banking operations for Domtar Inc. in Montreal. He married **Maureen McCormick** (BSc 77, MBA 87) and the couple recently became the proud parents of Justin Alexander. In that same week, John completed his CMA.

79 Pierre LeBlanc, BA (French/cinema; communication studies dip. 84), is a television producer with Radio Canada in Moncton, N.B.

80 Michael Alexandrou, BComm, is assistant vice-president, senior account manager, with the Bank of America International. After three years with the bank he moved to Florida, in 1989, to develop the market for the bank's electronic exchange systems, and to be a seminar leader in foreign exchange. He is married with two sons and lives in Clearwater, Florida.

Bart Hoen, BEd (TESL), lives in Cayenne, French Guiana. He works as a translator (French, Dutch and Portuguese) and as a TESL teacher for government agencies. A member of the Baha'i faith, Bart's interests include nature walks in the Amazon, exhibitions on peace and world unity, literacy projects and Atari computers. He is married with two children.

Nasim Omer, Gr. Dip education, is a plan administrator with Standard Life Assurance Co. She is married and has three children.

81 Luc Grégoire, BComm (accounting), is a chartered accountant and manager of taxation in the Montreal accounting firm of Arthur Andersen & Co. He was made a partner in September. Luc is married and has two sons.

Len Richman, MA, is on the faculty of West Island College in Dollard des Ormeaux. He teaches in English and in experimental programs. Len is married with three sons and three grandsons. During his sabbatical leaves he has spend time doing research in the Middle East, and as a volunteer teaching assistant in China.

Donna Steinberg, MA (creative writing), has authored two novels - *I Lost it All in Montreal* and *Fat Chance* - and is at work on a third, *Designer Genes*. She and her husband are moving to Hermosa Beach, California, where she will pursue a career as a screenwriter.

Nick Vanelli, BComm (dip. accountancy 87), is a manager with the accounting firm of Levy Pilotte in Montreal. Nick is married and recently became the proud father of Lucas Miro Vannelli.

83 David Birnbaum, BA (journalism), is executive director of Alliance Quebec, an English-community lobby organization in Montreal. As a result of his job, he says, he is in regular contact with fellow journalism graduates now in the media.

Timothy Collins, BEng (building), has returned to his position as an intellectual property lawyer with the Ottawa firm Scott & Aylen. He had previously spent a year in England studying the British adversarial system. He and his partner have two children.

Téri Covin (Mayer), BFA (art education), is bookkeeper for Cellular One Inc., a Bell Cellular centre in Montreal. She is married with two children and lives in Laval. Téri has been a volunteer: as artist liaison for Art 89, 90 and 91 in Laval; as chair of the Chomedey branch of the Jewish Public Library; as a member of the Souvenir School Committee and of the Laurenval School Board parents' committee.

Norman Ferraris, BFA (studio music), is music director for concerts and jazz bands at Collège Louis Riel in Winnipeg. Norman has a jazz sextet which presents concerts and clinics for the Manitoba Arts Council.

Gary Regenstreif, BA (journalism), is Ottawa Bureau Chief for Reuters after working for Canadian Press in Montreal. Gary was one of the news reporters to follow the troops into Iraq during the Gulf War.

dian Press in Montreal. Gary was one of the news reporters to follow the troops into Iraq during the Gulf War.

84 Richard Coulombe, BComm (marketing), is sales and marketing manager with Alex Coulombe Ltée which sells and distributes soft drinks and bottled water. He is married and has one child with another on the way.

Fakhria Shaban Diari, BA, is working for the Bahrain Ministry of Health. She lectures on nursing and midwifery at the College of Health and Sciences in Manama. She is planning to continue her studies with a PhD in public health. Fakhria is married and has a son.

François Longpré, BComm (accountancy), is practising commercial and civil law with the Montreal firm of Mackenzie Gervais.

Susan Spier, BFA (music), is working as a writer/researcher for the Encyclopedia of Music in Canada, located temporarily in the National Library of Canada in Ottawa. She spent last year as principal second violinist in North Bay, Ontario.
85 Lois Callan-Brimacombe, BA (library studies), received her master's degree in library and information science from University of Western Ontario in June.

TORONTO CONCORDIANS:

Karen McNamara (BComm 85), Marty Ginsberman (BA 76), Florence Lee (BComm 82) and Flo Yaffe (S BA 61) at the reception following the Toronto Chapter annual general meeting.



KEEP IN TOUCH

If you don't, how will we know?



To have information about yourself appear in Class Acts, please send this form or write the Alumni Office, 1455 de Maisonneuve boulevard west, Montreal H3G 1M8 or send a fax to (514) 848-2826.

Name _____ Degree/year/program _____

Home address _____

Telephone _____ Check box if this is a new address ☐

If you continued studies, where? _____

What subject? _____ Degree (s) & year (s) _____

Name of employer _____

Business address _____

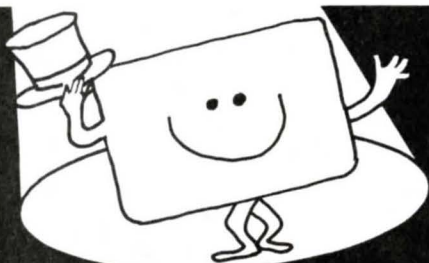
Telephone _____ Your company's business _____

Your position & what you do _____

Married? Children? _____

News & comments _____

I would like to volunteer for: Phonathons ☐ (call 848-3817) Homecoming ☐ (call 848-3815) Committees ☐ (call 848-3817)
Student mentor ☐ Chapter work ☐



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In an effort to improve alumni service, the Office of Alumni Affairs has established new guidelines for administering alumni membership. Graduates are no longer required to renew membership each year for a minimum donation of \$25.00.

The Concordia University Alumni Association already considers each alum a valued member upon graduation. As a graduate, you are automatically entitled to our graduation photography service, invitations to events, *Concordia University Magazine*, alumni insurance plans, tracking assistance, travel benefits and the Concordia University MasterCard.

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Tel: (514) 848-3818

By mail:
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Suite BC 101
Montreal, Quebec
H3G 1M8
Fax: (514) 848-2803



Concordia
UNIVERSITY

Sheldon Silverman, BCompSci, is living in Toronto and studying at Osgoode Hall Law School in a joint law and MBA program. He is married to Vicky Essebag (BA 83) and the couple has two daughters. Vicky is an early childhood teacher at Seneca College.

86 Ian Howard Aaron, BComm w. distinction (accountancy 87), is a financial auditor with the Office of the Auditor General for the Province of British Columbia in Victoria.

Catherine Blackburn, BFA, is a teacher at Swansea Public School, in the Toronto Board of Education.

Julie Laviolette, BComm, is manager, corporate planning, for Air Canada. Her job calls for integration of strategic, financial and commercial planning. She is married and lives in Beaconsfield.

87 Karin-Ann Goral, BA (applied social sci.), went on to study crisis intervention and social work at University of Calgary. She is now residential counsellor at Grace Haven Foster Home in Montreal. Karin-Ann works with eleven young women between the ages of thirteen and nineteen, preparing them for

independent living. She is married to a navigation officer in the Naval Reserve and she works part time in recruiting for that group. **Tor Scott**, BA (poli. sci.), is sales coordinator, responsible for four of eleven shipping lines, with Seabridge International Shipping. Tor is not married but has two cats, Tyrone and Peanut.

88 Stefan Mercier, BA (political science), owns and operates Les Services Coucatours Mercier Inc., an educational travel enterprise. He lived in Toronto for three years before returning to Montreal to set up his business.

Saode Savary, Gr. Dip. ecotoxicology, is president of Services d'évaluation en santé et toxicologie environnementale, a consultancy business he runs from his home in Montreal. His environmental health program won the *Gazette* Earth Day 1991 award, and he is very involved in continuing education on matters environmental. Saode is married and has two children.

John W.R. Way, BA (environmental geog.), is living in Rhode Island. He was married in November and says he plans to live and work in the U.S.A.

89 Dwayne Desaulniers, BA (liberal arts), is a national affairs journalist with Standard Broadcast News in Ottawa. He writes that, while covering events around the world and in Canada for the past three years, he has been "extolling the virtues of Concordia's Liberal Arts College at all stops."

Brian Thompson, BFA (music), continued his studies at University of Victoria, earning an MA 91. He plans to spend the next year travelling around Asia.

90 André Choquet, BSc (actuarial math), is working in Toronto for the William M. Mercer firm of consulting actuaries as an actuarial assistant.

Juan Corsillo, BComm, is an account manager with National Bank Leasing Inc., a subsidiary of National Bank of Canada. Juan specializes in long-term financing. He and his wife live in Toronto.

Danielle Hébert, BFA, has received a grant from FCAR (Fonds pour la formation de chercheurs et l'aide à la recherche) and is working on a photographic project. Danielle has a daughter born in March.

Andrew Shore, BA (English & history), is a congressional liaison officer for External Affairs and International Trade Canada. He is taking two years of training in a variety of positions in preparation for his first posting which, he says, will probably be neither Geneva nor Paris.

91 Paul Antaki, BComm, is studying for an MBA, with a focus on international business, at University of British Columbia. He has received a Centre for International Business Studies fellowship.

Rosanne Gamache, BComm (international business), is living in Japan where she teaches English to students in the Amagasaki Oda High School English program. She writes that the Canadian and Japanese educational systems have different strengths and could learn from each other. Rosanne plans to stay in Japan for two years.

Stephan Tanguay, BComp Sci (information systems), is an analyst programmer with Videotron Services Informatiques. He is married and lives in Montreal.



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In Memoriam

Frederick R. Cressey, MBA 1976.

W. Earle McLaughlin, O.C., Chancellor of Concordia University from 1982 to 1986, former chair of Royal Bank of Canada. At Montreal, October 30, 1991, aged 76.

Yaroslav R. Panasiuk, L BA 64, June 18, 1991.

Judge Clarence Gordon Quinlan, L BA 32, was the earliest graduate to attend Concordia's first Homecoming in 1990. At Montreal, October 12, 1991, aged 82.

Jessie G. Willard, S BFA 72 and BA 78, at Montreal, August 30, 1991.

Students litter the Groves of Academe

Stuart Smith, former chair of the Science Council of Canada, recently issued a report in which he said that teaching standards in Canadian universities are abysmally low and that the needs of students are being neglected. Obviously, Dr. Smith has been misled. Oh, he's right on about the teaching standards. Where he's wrong is in thinking that educational institutions are for students.

In fairness, I used to believe that, too. Well, I was young.

Then I started teaching. My first class was a Grade 7. I did what I had learned in teachers' college. I let the students arrange their desks in little friendship circles. It created a much nicer atmosphere, and got us away from the old teacher-centred arrangement. Then the principal came by.

"Oh, no, Mr. Decarie," he said. "The seats have to be in straight rows, six straight rows. It makes it easier for the janitor."

That was lesson number one. The education system exists to make life easier for janitors. Lesson two came at Christmas.

"Mr. Decarie," said the principal, "I notice you don't have any display on the bulletin board outside your class. Couldn't you have the children put up some nice reindeer?"

Well I did it. The kids didn't like it much, and I had to discipline a couple of them, but it was done. Trouble was, there was no end to his demands. The reindeer had scarcely settled down to their paper snowbank when the principal was back.

"Mr. Decarie," he said, "your reindeer look lovely, and I do commend you for the effort. But next week is Easter. Couldn't you cut out some nice pink bunnies?"

Eventually I learned why he was so keen on hall displays. He wanted to impress the district inspector that he ran a happy bustling school. Then he might get a promotion. Lesson two: educational institutions exist to get promotions for the people who run them.

Every year brought new lessons. I learned that the system was for religious enthusiasts, for politicians and, sometimes, even for teachers. What it clearly was not for was students.



By the time I moved to university teaching I had noticed something that caused me to expect even worse from universities.

It is a rule of thumb that the best teachers are to be found at the lowest educational level. The reason shows up in staff room conversations.

Elementary grade teachers talk about the problems and needs of their students. In high school the focus is more likely to be on the subject. It seems the more teachers know about their subject, the more they are likely to be concerned about the information they are sending – and less likely to be concerned about whether anything is being received.

Now, university teachers are obsessed with their subject area. In fact, their happiest moments are spent at conferences during which they take turns reading stunningly boring papers on their sub-

jects to each other. (Some day a sociologist will write a paper on this curious ritual – and read it to a conference of sociologists.) During 23 years of university teaching, I have been anesthetized by historical papers on everything from swear words in New France to political parties in Keewatin. I have never heard even one on students and how to teach them.

University teachers' training is focused on the subject. All of their professional reputation rides on publication. The result, admittedly with exceptions, is that students are almost irrelevant. The university comes to serve the needs of its professors, not its students.

The university also exists to serve the needs of its administrators. Their reputations (and chances for promotion) rest on recognition they get from other universities. Since other universities understand only subject expertise and publication, administrators will push for more of the same from their own schools. That's why our universities, supposedly filled with innovative and inquiring minds, have not changed their teaching methods since the twelfth century.

Stuart Smith's report will get a polite hearing. Professors and administrators will solemnly assure the public that they are, indeed, concerned about excellence in teaching. They'll probably believe it too. They might even form a committee. But nobody's going to *do* anything. Any shift from research to teaching would traumatize professors and would be professional suicide for administrators.

It would, of course, help students. But students aren't what the system is for.

Graeme Decarie teaches Canadian history and is chair of Concordia's History Department.



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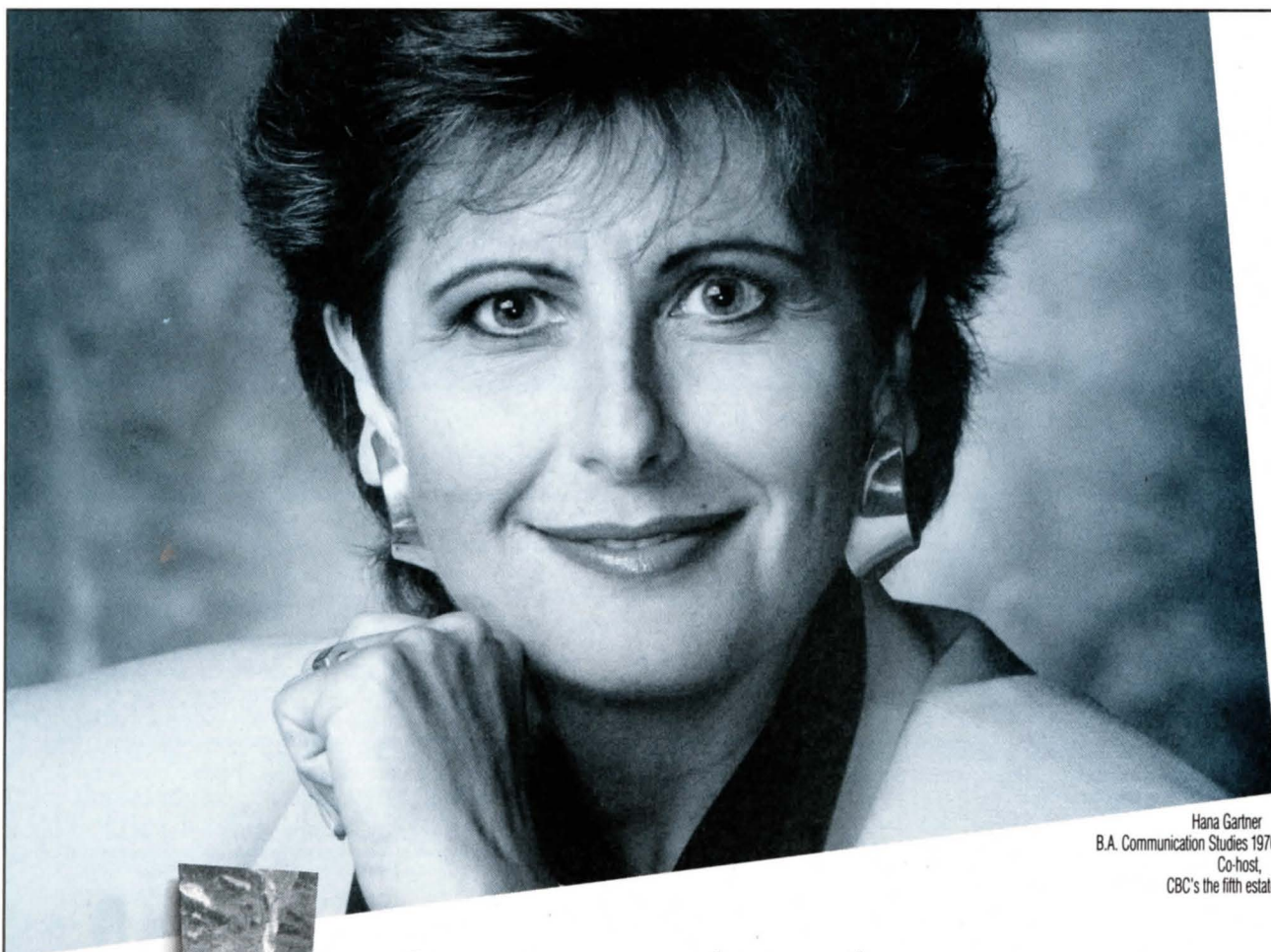
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